

A large second brood of Heath Fritillary *Melitaea athalia* (Rott.) (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in Essex

The Heath Fritillary is probably one of the easiest butterflies to re-introduce to woodlands where it once occurred, provided that the food plant remains available, and that the coppicing regime is both suitable and carried out correctly. These butterflies were re-introduced to Hockley Wood, South Essex, a few years ago and during 1999 I was delighted to discover a large second brood of adults. After many years studying butterflies, this is the first time I have ever seen such large numbers of a second brood; whether this is a consequence of global warming or due to some local phenomenon remains to be seen. Several mating pairs were seen, though no egg-laying has so far been observed. The eggs generally take about two weeks to hatch and the small larvae then feed for several weeks before over-wintering in communal tents spun of silk amongst curled-up leaves. The fact that most of the food plant had dried up or else was in poor condition on 22 September, when butterflies were still appearing, may well limit the survival of the larvae that arise from this second generation of adults and it will be most interesting to see what effect, if any, this unusually large second brood in 1999 has on the first brood in 2000.— DON DOWN, "Aegeria", 16 Woodend Close, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 3YA.

New Vice-county records of Lepidoptera for the Isle of Wight during 1999

On 15 October 1999, Terry Rogers, on holiday here from the Shetland Islands, captured the first example of the noctuid *Dryobota labecula* (Esper) for mainland Britain at Freshwater; I was fortunate enough to take a second on 22 October in my garden, also at Freshwater. This species has evidently spread northwards in mainland Europe in the past few years and its arrival in Britain was perhaps predictable, having been added to the list for the Channel Islands in 1991 and now clearly resident there (see Burrow, 1996. *Ent. Rec.* **108**: 136-137).

On 8 January, a micro-moth emerged from a box containing various pupae and this was later identified by Dr John Langmaid as *Niditinea fuscella* (L.) – another new Isle of Wight record. On 14 June, Dr David Biggs found a pupa in a galled twig of *Salix cinerea* at Shide Chalk Pit. This transpired to be *Cydia servillana* (Dup.) and is also new to the Island list. Later, on 7 July, Dr Biggs found an adult *Elachista* at Luccombe, which was subsequently identified as *Elachista luticomella* (Zell.) by Dr Langmaid and is yet another new record for the Isle of Wight. Finally, on 14 November, I recorded an example of *Blastobasis decolorella* (Woll.) at Freshwater, and took another two weeks later on 26 November - another new Vice-county record.— S. A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight PO40 9AL.